

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for intracellular delivery of a protein, comprising:  
a protein in operative association with a cationic intracellular delivery vehicle comprising a cationic lipid, wherein the intracellular delivery vehicle is adapted to fuse with a cell-membrane, thereby effecting intracellular delivery of the associated protein.

2. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the protein is linked, either directly or through a linker, to a cationic lipid.

3. The composition of Claim 2, wherein the protein is linked to a cationic lipid by linking the protein to a polynucleotide, and associating the polynucleotide with a cationic lipid.

4. The composition of Claim 3, wherein the protein is linked to the polynucleotide through a PNA linker.

5. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the protein is linked to a linker molecule that is linked to a cationic lipid.

6. The composition of Claim 5, wherein the linker molecule is maleimide.

7. The composition of Claim 5, wherein at least one of the protein-linker and linker-cationic lipid links is covalent.

8. The composition of Claim 5, wherein at least one of the protein-linker and linker-cationic lipid links is ionic.

9. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the protein is a therapeutic protein.

10. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the protein is a specific binding protein.

11. The composition of Claim 10, wherein the specific binding protein is an antibody or antibody fragment.

12. The composition of Claim 1, wherein the intracellular delivery vehicle comprises a cationic lipid, a cationic liposome, a lipoplex comprising cationic lipid and nucleic acid, or an anionic polymer in association with a cationic lipid.

13. The composition of Claim 12, wherein the intracellular delivery vehicle comprises an anionic polymer in association with a cationic lipid, and wherein the anionic polymer includes a reactive group coupled to said protein.

14. A method for delivering a protein to a cell, comprising:

providing the protein associated with a cationic lipid in such a manner as to form an intracellular delivery composition, and

contacting the delivery composition with a cell membrane of a cell, such that the cationic lipid forms an association with the cell membrane and thereby delivers the protein into the cell.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the delivery composition is the composition of Claim 1.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein the delivery composition further includes a nucleic acid

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid is attached to the protein.

18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid is linked to the protein through a PNA.

19. The method of Claim 14, wherein the delivery composition comprises a cationic liposome encapsulating the protein.

20. The method of Claim 14, wherein the delivery composition comprises a cationic lipid linked to the protein through a covalent linker.

21. The method of Claim 14, wherein the protein inhibits an intracellular process.

22. The method of Claim 14, wherein the protein is therapeutic.

23. The method of Claim 14, wherein the protein is an antibody or antibody fragment.